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The Newsletter of the Hispanic Theological Initiative vol. 4, no. 1
Advancing Theological Reflection Through Hispanic Eyes.

Celebrating the Life-Giving Commitments from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. and Princeton Theological Seminary

In Mayan art and literature the planting of corn with a pointed planting stick is a symbol of all that is life giving (see picture). Ancient Mayan life depended upon a variety of native products, like stone, lime, and gravel for their ceremonial buildings, and timber and thatch for the houses of the common people. The rich and varied flora supplied the people with vegetables, seasonings, kitchen utensils, medicines, and fibers for textiles and basketry. And the forest supplied game of all kinds, including jaguar and deer, and birds of beautiful plumage. Yet despite all this abundance, the Mayans could not have developed their distinctive culture, the most brilliant aboriginal civilization of the New World, without nature's gift of maize.

In burgeoning Latino communities across the nation, it is religious groups that typically imbue neighborhoods with the gifts of meaning, hope, affirmation, cultural identity, transmission of values, and organization for empowerment and justice. In response to this strength that is already there, the first Hispanic Theological Initiative (HTI) leaders envisioned providing for these communities Latina/o theologians who could teach and write about the most pressing needs these communities are already facing and would face in the future.

And so, just as in Mayan culture the farmer planting corn symbolizes what is life-giving, so too HTI visionaries and leaders in establishing a scholarship and mentoring program for promising Latina/o doctoral students have ensured that there will be more and better equipped leaders in Latino communities who can offer what is life giving to their people around the country. These students are committed to service, they are individuals who want to be superbly trained to teach values and ideas that will not only inform but also, transform lives, and they are helping to nurture abundance of life in our Latino faith communities and society in general.

But these HTI leaders could not have done it alone. It is thanks to a grant of \$6.6 million from The Pew Charitable Trusts that the HTI in the past seven years has granted **260** awards to scholars at the masters, doctoral, and non-tenured levels, most of who had the invaluable support of a mentor. The program has also added **28** new Ph.Ds. to the list of those qualified to teach and write on religion. Most of them are employed, with 96 percent working and teaching in the academy. Many have published articles in academic journals and dictionaries, **five** have written books, and all of them are deeply committed to the Church. Before HTI there were **69** Latina/o scholars of religion teaching in theological schools, seminaries, and colleges around the country. Today there are more than **104**.

While these life-producing and life-changing achievements indicate the great strides that have been made in only seven years, much remains to be done. Recent census reports show the Latino population is indeed the largest minority group in the United States. Many schools do not have Latinas/os on their faculties. Spurred on by these realities, the HTI leaders were more determined than ever to find HTI both a permanent home and additional funding to ensure the continuation of the directives of the program for many years to come. Just as the farmer continuously plants and nurtures his fields in order to produce crops, the HTI visionaries and leaders set out to find HTI a permanent home and financial stability in order to produce more teachers and leaders for the burgeoning Latino population. On May 21, 2002 the Board of Trustees of Princeton Theological Seminary (PTS) voted to assume responsibility for funding HTI operations and its mentoring program beginning in 2008, and on September 18, 2003 the Lilly Endowment, Inc. granted \$888,000 to HTI to

provide four new, renewable, scholarships per year (up to \$15,000 per student) for the next five years for students entering doctoral programs in religion.

The perseverance and creativity of these visionary leaders has already begun to produce an excellent harvest thanks to Pew's funding getting us off the ground, Lilly's generosity carrying us forward, and PTS providing HTI a permanent home. These are strong partnerships, but there is still work that needs to be done. The rapidly growing Latino community in the United States is at a critical juncture; in order to maintain and advance the goals of the HTI for years to come, many obstacles, including financial needs, require ongoing effort and commitment.

Please join us in this life-giving venture. Visit our website at www.htiprogram.org to familiarize yourself with our program. We invite your questions about your contributions to our fundraising campaign. Familiarize yourself with our awardees' monographs and the HTI Dissertation Collection at PTS' Speer Library. Join in solidarity with our aims of furthering knowledge about the Latino religious community by asking your institution's library to carry these publications and by including these scholars' voices in your research, writing, preaching, and teaching. Contact hti@ptsem.edu for a free copy of HTI's journal, *Perspectivas: Occasional Papers*, to learn more about what our scholars are saying.

Like maize in the Mayan economy, we invite you to become a central part of the HTI's life-giving venture.

Joanne Rodríguez, Director, HTI

Regional Conferences

The East regional conference, *Violence in the Home: A Latino Concern*, took place on February 19th at the University of Chicago Divinity School. It was the first conference held on domestic violence by a Latina/o academic community. Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz (Drew University) and Dr. William Schweiker (Divinity School and the College University of Chicago) were the two main presenters. Santiago Piñón, former HTI awardee, and María Teresa Dávila, current HTI awardee, responded to Isasi-Díaz and Schweiker, respectively. Assisting Santiago Piñón in the coordination of the event were Neomi DeAnda, Juan Escarfuller, Carmelo Santos, Norman Ruano, and Francisco Javier Goitía, all current HTI awardees.

On the West coast, the regional conference took place on February 28th at Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Presentations focused on issues dealing with the interaction between Latino immigrants/migrants and the churches that serve them, especially addressing the concerns that have arisen as a result of the overhaul of current immigration laws. Speakers included Daniel Ramírez, former HTI awardee, Dr. Lois Ann Lorentzen, University of San Francisco, and Cecilia González-Andrieu, current HTI awardee. Jorge Aquino and Joseph de León, both past HTI awardees, and Cecilia worked on the planning and organization of this successful event.

Upcoming Events

SUMMER WORKSHOP

July 16-20, 2004
Princeton Theological Seminary
Princeton, NJ

Workshops:

- *Mentoring*: Dr. Jean-Pierre Ruiz
- *Career Orientation*: Ms. Susan Terman
- *Computer Technology*:
Dr. Mary Hess
- *How to Get Published*: Dr. Miguel De La Torre
- *Research*: Ms. Kate Skrebutenas
- *Writers' Workshops*: Dr. Jon Berquist,
Ms. Ulrike Guthrie and
Dr. Robert Ratcliff

Lecture

"*Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Latin American Church Mother*"

Dr. Michelle A. González
Response by Dr. Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel

AETH BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

August 5-7, 2004
Fuller Theological Seminary
Pasadena, CA

ANNUAL HTI RECEPTION AT AAR/SBL MEETING

November 20-23, 2004
(exact date of HTI reception to be
advised; please check the HTI website)
San Antonio, TX



First-time meetings between HTI mentors and their mentees have given birth to many strong relationships, many outliving their HTI-sponsored lifespan. Picture above is last year's cohort of new "partners" at their meeting in Phoenix, accompanied by HTI Director, Joanne Rodríguez, and Angela Schoepf, HTI Assistant Director.

Journeys

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Discovering the Silences: The Latin American Religious Bibliographical Project Update

This project began its work in April of 2003, taking on the task of examining different graduate programs in the field of religion in order to analyze the existing policies of doctoral examination and language requirements. The purpose of this study was to research these policies, especially with regard to language requirements that were devoid of Spanish as one of the "academic" languages in the different fields of theology and religion. At the same time, the

project sought to generate a bibliographical resource of Latin American works in these fields and in their original language, to serve Latina/o and non-Latina/o students in their studies and in the development of their doctoral examinations.

We gathered information from 37 former and current HTI awardees and approximately 26 graduate programs. This information will be analyzed and will be part of the project's final report,

to be presented during the HTI Summer Workshop to be held at Princeton Theological Seminary (July 16-20, 2004). In addition to the analysis of the data regarding the status of language requirements and the use of resources from Latin America by students in graduate programs, the report will include a list of bibliographical resources from Latin America.

HTI BOOK PRIZE

Skillfully transforming her dissertation, Dr. Michelle A. González penned this year's winning entry, *Sor Juana: Beauty and Justice in the Americas*. With its versatile presentation in a manner that addresses several theological disciplines—history, theology, ethics, arts and religion—the work will surely draw the attention of a wide and discriminating audience. Drawing upon historical sensitivity in relating Sor Juana's thought to its context, González shows conceptual depth in probing the categories of beauty, the good and the true, with an acute eye to contemporary theology regarding aesthetics, feminist theology and Latin American liberation theology.

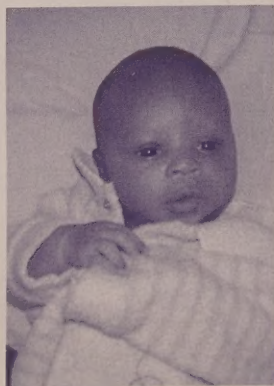
Dr. González, of Cuban heritage, is Assistant Professor of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los

Angeles, having obtained her Ph.D. in Systematic and Philosophical Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in 2001. Her research and teaching interests include Latina/o, Latin American, and Feminist Theologies, as well as inter-disciplinary work in theological aesthetics. In addition to the monetary award, she will deliver a lecture on her prize-winning book during HTI's annual Summer Workshop at Princeton Theological Seminary. The award ceremony, lecture, and a book-signing event will take place on July 17th.

We trust that the welcome addition of this new work will provide inspiration to Dr. González' colleagues as they seek the realization of their writing aspirations, and we wish her much continued success in her teaching and writing careers.

Familia!

The many blessings bestowed upon us come in many packages, beautifully illustrated here by little Benjamin, son of Allan Johnson-Taylor and his wife, Donna.



To have an insatiable appetite for learning is a healthy sign for all scholars, a trait developed at an early age as shown here by Destiny, daughter of MT Dávila and her husband, Rob. Who's to say she won't follow in her mother's footsteps?

News Flash

We congratulate **Dr. Edwin Aponte**, HTI 1997-1998 Dissertation year awardee, upon his recent tenureship confirmation as Associate Professor of Christianity and Culture at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, TX.

Michael Lee, HTI 2003-2004 Dissertation year awardee, will join the faculty of Fordham University as Assistant Professor in Systematic Theology and Hermeneutics in the Fall.

Asbury Theological Seminary recently granted its Teaching and Learning Award to the Associate Dean of the School of Theology, **Dr. Hugo Magallanes**, HTI 1997-1999 Doctoral Level Awardee, and 2001-2002 Dissertation year awardee.

On May 16th the University of Notre Dame granted an honorary doctorate to **Dr. Anita de Luna**, HTI 1999-2000 Dissertation year awardee.

Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier, HTI 1997-1998 Dissertation year awardee, has been granted tenureship as Associate Professor of Religious Education at Claremont School of Theology.

2004-2005 Awardees

We are proud to announce this year's scholarship and mentoring awardees, representing 8 countries, including the United States and Puerto Rico. They are comprised of Roman Catholics and Protestants from 7 denominations. They also represent 14 different seminaries and universities across the United States.

Doctoral Studies Awardees

Salvador Alcántara
Eric Daniel Barreto
Anthony Suárez
Ernesto Valiente

Doctoral Renewal Awardees

These scholars were awardees for the 2003-2004 academic year
Sammy Alfaro
Tommy Ayala Casarez
Neomi DeAnda
Juan Escarfuller
Cristina García-Alfonso
Jacqueline M. Hidalgo

With an audience of over 1,600 persons **Cecilia González-Andrieu**, HTI 2003-2005 Doctoral awardee, was a presenter at the Religious Education Congress sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, held in Anaheim, CA in February.

Rady Roldán-Figueroa, HTI 1998-2000 Masters level awardee, and 2000-2003 Doctoral level awardee, was a presenter at the international symposium "Lay Bibles in Europe", sponsored by the University of Amsterdam in April. Rady will also assume a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Historical Theology at Baylor University in the Fall.

Dr. Paul Barton, HTI 1997-1998 Dissertation year awardee, and 2000-2001 Post-doctoral awardee, has been granted tenureship and promoted to the position of Associate Professor of Hispanic Studies at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. This milestone in his academic career will go into effect in May of 2005.

Temple University Press announced the

publication of *Las Hermanas*:

Chicana/Latina Religious-Political Activism in the U.S. Catholic Church, written by **Dr. Lara Medina**, HTI 1997-1998 Dissertation year awardee, and 1999-2000 Post-doctoral awardee.

At the annual meeting of AAR/SBL held in Atlanta, **Mayra Rivera**, HTI 2000-2001 Masters level awardee, 2001-2004 Doctoral level awardee, and 2004-2005 Dissertation year awardee, presented a paper entitled "Sophia the Hybrid: A Latina Postcolonial Theology".

The University of California Press introduced the publication of *La Lucha for Cuba: Religion and Politics on the Streets of Miami*, by **Dr. Miguel De La Torre**, HTI 2000-2001 Post-Doctoral awardee.

Christopher Tirres, HTI 1998-2001 Doctoral level awardee, and 2003-2004 Dissertation year awardee, has been appointed a tenure track position at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont (part of the Claremont consortium) as Assistant Professor in Religious Studies, starting in the Fall.

WE CELEBRATE OUR NEW DOCTORS

It is *un placer* for us to announce the recent successful dissertation defense of two HTI awardees:

Dr. Manuel Jesús Mejido, HTI 2002-2003 Dissertation year awardee, Associate Researcher at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Santiago, Chile.

Dr. Rubén Rosario-Rodríguez, HTI 2003-2004 Dissertation year awardee, has been granted a tenure-track position at St. Louis University as Assistant Professor of American Christianity.

Special Mentoring Awardees

These scholars have entered their examination year. This award will allow them to work with an HTI mentor throughout the 2004-2005 academic year.
Cecilia González-Andrieu
Norman Ruano
Carmelo Santos-Rolón

Dissertation Year Awardees

Arturo Chávez
María Teresa Dávila
Francisco Javier Goitía
Juan Hernández
Mayra Rivera Rivera

Awardees' Corner

Y TODO ESTO, POR MEDIO PESO

Attendance at Academy of Homiletics Annual Conference:	\$600
Two-way ticket to Germany to learn the language and even write the first draft of my dissertation proposal:	\$943
Value of Networking Funds	Priceless!

An HTI awardee has much flexibility when it comes to using her/his networking funds. The first time I used them was to attend the Academy of Homiletics Annual Conference. Because the conference is smaller and dedicated to a particular academic area of interest, this annual conference was better for me than AAR in terms of relationships and exposure (I was one of two Hispanics attending the conference). The conference was my entrance to the guild and professional network.

I also utilized the funds to go to Germany to learn the language. The experience not only provided me with familiarity and the mechanics of the German language, but it also afforded me the opportunity to live with a family, resulting in my immersion into the culture and history of that country. The challenges I faced in communicating helped me to explore the language in such a way that I was able to better understand the topic of my dissertation, which presents a *linguistic* approach to identity and theology. In this case, the networking funds gave me the tools necessary for the completion of my program.

In my three years with HTI, the availability of networking funds has helped me to build relationships in my professional guild, and they have also provided other tools and opportunities for expanding my horizon, proving to be instrumental in the completion of my Ph.D. program. I invite you to take full advantage of this resource and reap the invaluable benefits. *Y todo esto, por medio peso*

Francisco Javier Goitía
HTI 2004-2005 Dissertation year awardee
Lutheran School of Theology

NOT JUST A SCHOLARSHIP

Ever since I attended my first summer workshop with the HTI, something became very clear to me: HTI is not just a scholarship, but it plays a crucial role in the creation and support of academic networks.

HTI played a critical role in my own development as a church historian and theologian in many different ways. It was through HTI that I realized the significant role of academic networks for both scholarly and professional advancement. Moreover, it has been through the program's financial support of my own networking activities that I have been able to tap into meaningful opportunities for academic advancement. I have for three consecutive years attended and delivered papers at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies conference. In April I also delivered a paper at the international symposium "Lay Bibles in Europe", sponsored by the University of Amsterdam.

These scholarly meetings, all made possible by the generous assistance of HTI, in turn generated other opportunities. It was through my participation at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference that I became acquainted with my current "boss", Dr. David Whitford. Dr. Whitford recruited me for the position of Lilly Teaching Fellow in Philosophy and Religion at Claflin University (South Carolina). Also, the fact that I have been active in these scholarly meetings played a major role in the decision of Baylor University to hire me for a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, a position I will assume in the Fall. In short, HTI is indeed more than a scholarship program. At the core of HTI is a very comprehensive and holistic understanding of academic life, and of "flesh and bone" scholars.

Rady Roldán-Figueroa
HTI 2002-2003 Special Mentoring awardee
Claflin University, South Carolina

STEPPING-STONES IN NETWORKING

For the first time ever, and thanks to the support of HTI, I attended the Joint Annual National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature in November. My first-time attendance served as an important stepping-stone for my present research as a first-year doctoral student at Vanderbilt University in the area of the New Testament and Early Christianity, as well as for future research and employment in the academy at large.

The HTI reception was invaluable in reconnecting with other Latina/o scholars whose very presence enlivens my own commitment "to keep on keeping" with my doctoral studies for the sake of the impact I want to have on my community and church. It was great to hear how colleagues are doing and to share my own stories of struggles and successes as I am "just" getting started with my doctoral studies. I realized more than ever from that small point of connection at the reception how precious are the professional relationships and friendships I form with the HTI community for the sake of sustaining my own work and the work of others, especially those wondering on the edge whether this work is for them. I was especially gratified to meet a Latino Master's level student who had many questions for me about Biblical doctoral studies in general and about the Vanderbilt program in particular. I was in his shoes just a year ago, and so was eager to communicate encouragement and my own excitement about the field for Latinas and Latinos.

I am grateful to HTI for encouraging me and making financially possible my initial participation in what looks to be many points of connection at the major conference in my field. Gracias!

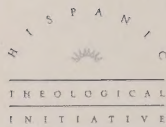
Juan Escarfuller
HTI 2004-2005 Doctoral Renewal awardee
Vanderbilt University

HTI DISSERTATION COLLECTION AT PTS' SPEER LIBRARY

On Monday July 15, 2002 a ribbon cutting ceremony at Speer Library marked the opening of the HTI Dissertation Collection. Doctoral dissertations written by graduates of the HTI program, or dissertations dealing with Latino issues written by other individuals, are now available to patrons on campus for a two-hour period with renewals available as long as no one else needs them. For patrons off campus, they may search the online catalog via the web (<http://catalog.ptsem.edu>). To access and view the list of dissertations online, these can be found under the titles HTI or HTI dissertation collection. They may also visit their local library and request an interlibrary loan through OCLC in order to have the material shipped. This material would be available for a four-week loan period with in-library use only.

Listed below are dissertations available as of May 1, 2004:

Author	Title
Agosto, Efraín	Paul's Use of Greco-Roman Conventions of Commendation
Alanís, Javier	Dignity for the Foreigner: A Study of the Doctrine of the Imago Dei from a Lutheran Hispanic/Latino Perspective
Barton, Paul Thomas	In Both Worlds: A History of Hispanic Protestantism in the U.S. Southwest
Chávez Saucedo, Teresa	Community, Mestizaje and Liberation: Envisioning Racial Justice from a Latina/o Perspective
Conde-Frazier, Elizabeth	A Case Study of Two Hispanic Bible Institutes in Massachusetts: Their Mission, Educational Philosophy and Pedagogy
Dalton, Frederick	The Moral Vision of César E. Chávez: An Examination of His Public Life from an Ethical Perspective
De Luna, Anita	<i>Religiosidad Popular</i> in the <i>Tejano</i> Catechetical Journey
Díaz, Miguel	A Study in U.S. Hispanic Theological Anthropology, 1972-1999
Díaz-Bolet, Esther L.	A Study of Selected Factors Related Mentoring Women Administrators in Christian Colleges and Universities
Fernández, Eduardo C.	U.S. Hispanic Theology (1968-1993): Context and Praxis
Gómez, Raúl R.	<i>Lignum Crucis</i> : The Cross in the Good Friday Celebration of the Hispano-Mozarabic Triduum
González, Michelle A.	A Latin American Ressourcement: The Theological Contribution of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in Light of Hans Urs Von Balthasar's Methodology
González-Tejera, Awilda	Intercession in Paul's Letters in Light of Graeco-Roman Practices of Intercession
Irizarry-Mercado, José R.	<i>Praxis e Identidad</i> : Discourses and Practices of Puerto Rican Religious Education In the Works of Domingo Marrero and Angel M. Mergal, 1935-1965
Maldonado Pérez, Zaida	The Subversive Dimensions of the Visions of the Martyrs of the Roman Empire of the Second Through Early Fourth Centuries
Martínez Vázquez, Hjamil A.	Shifting the Discursive Space: A Postcolonial Approach to U.S. Religious Historiography
Medina, Lara	<i>Las Hermanas</i> : Chicana/Latina Religious-Political Activism, 1971-1997
Pantoja, Segundo S.	Religion and Parental Involvement in the Education of Hispanics
Rauscher, Pamela	The Theological Context and Social Praxis of Christian Women in the United States: 1880-1930
Rodríguez, Jesús	Protecting the Self and Resisting Grandiose Narcissistic Selfobjects: A Mainline Protestant Latino/a Clergy Self Psychology Hermeneutics of Pastoral Care
Sánchez Merino, Leopoldo A.	Receiver, Bearer, and Giver of God's Spirit: Jesus' Life and Mission in the Spirit as a Ground for Understanding Christology, Trinity, and Proclamation
Valdés, Jorge Luis	The First Printed Apocalypse of St. John - The Complutensian Polyglot and Its Influence on Erasmus' Greek New Testament Text



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